

Mr. Speaker, this administration has intentionally opened up our border to a flood of human trafficking, unprecedented drug smuggling, and a record amount of crime and gang activity. There is no apology for it. There is no recognition of it. There seems to be no sign of changing the posture and policies of this administration. There is no accountability. They are not committed to detaining and deporting.

Mr. Speaker, they are catching and releasing, there is lawlessness, chaos, and a border beyond recognition. This central tenet of catch and release has not only rewarded illegal immigration, but it has dispersed this crisis beyond our border to every State in the United States, making every State a border State.

Since March, 160,000 illegal immigrants have been released into the United States. This, in addition to almost a half a million got-aways.

Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that folks who were being detained, illegal immigrants, were being released into neighborhoods in communities in my district. They couldn't tell me how many. They couldn't tell me where they came from. They couldn't tell me who was going to follow up, when they would show up for court. They had nothing. They could confirm, however, that there were people being released, illegal immigrants, into our communities who were COVID positive, and some who had criminal records. Nobody notified. Not me, not our governor, no local officials—just releasing folks.

Meanwhile, this administration is mandating and insisting on vaccines and public health protocols, but letting folks just stream into our country. They say one of every five illegal immigrants crossing is COVID positive, and so there is this public safety threat of another surge inundating our hospitals while they force their policies on the American people in this regard. Shameful.

And there has been an exponential increase in criminal aliens apprehended at the border. These are folks who have committed a crime on our soil who have crossed back over—four times as much criminal activity, criminal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are startling: 348 percent increase in criminal aliens convicted of DUIs coming back to the United States; 454 percent increase in criminal aliens convicted of drug possession; 477 percent increase in robbery, theft, burglary; over 200 percent increase in sex offenses, and over 1600 percent increase in criminal aliens who have come over to our country and committed murder.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT POWELL HOLDING, III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Powell Holding, III, of Wilmington, North Carolina. Thomas Jefferson once said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty."

North Carolina is fortunate to have an embodiment of this American spirit in Robert Holding, III, who is continuing his battle against pancreatic cancer by working on a new E.A. Morris/Robert P. Holding Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Robert, or "Robbie", as so many of his closest friends and family in our home county of Johnston call him, when I was a teenager working on our family farm during the summers.

He drove up in his pickup, with his wrist resting on top of the steering—the window rolled down, of course. I don't know how I can recall that detail so vividly and not remember the exact year, but I think I was about 13 or 14.

He had stopped by the shop there at the farm to visit with my uncle for a bit. They talked weather and the crops and the latest news in the county for a good 30 minutes, maybe longer.

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Now, that wasn't the first time I had seen a neighboring farmer come by in their pickup to talk, but it was the first time I had ever met a Holding. I had heard about the family for years—arguably the most influential family in Johnston County and eastern North Carolina—but I had never met one until that day. Years later we would be neighbors at McGee's Crossroads in Johnston County and in Wilmington as well.

Former U.S. Senator Lauch Faircloth said it best when he wrote about Robert Holding: Robert, you are one of the strongest people of faith I know. Lauch went on: I remember launching my campaign in your living room. You have been in the top leadership for Reagan in 1980, Senator Jesse Helms, myself, Senator Dole, and others.

My dear friend and former Congressman George Holding added: I watched my older brother work hard for years, building businesses in manufacturing, media, real estate, and finance. And I watched him tirelessly give back to his family and community.

I have personally seen firsthand how Robert Holding's hard work, mentoring, and insightful mind inspires others. He has helped make our State and Nation a much better place.

From the Nutcracker Company to vice president of promotional wholesale; from founder and CEO of Carolantic Communications and RP Industries; to founding Reedy Branch Farms, Robert has worked to be a contributor to his community.

From founder and CEO of Allied Communications, Delta Broadcasting

and WKFT-TV, to CFB Construction Company, Jefferson Marketing, RP Holding Realty, the Coalition for Freedom, and the Vance Young Team at Intracoastal Realty, Robert has provided love, leadership, and jobs to employees and owners.

From Americans for Reagan to Helms, Faircloth, Dole, Leo Daughtry, the Congressional Club, and so many others, Robert Holding is a visionary business leader who stands for what he believes.

You can see his kind heart in how he continues to give back to our community locally through his nonprofit work, and by his help to champion to E.A. Morris Cancer Center at Duke University. He is helping lead projects in Johnston County to strengthen Providence Presbyterian Church, expand LifeSpring Academy, and support Friendship Baptist Church, as well as his work with the Wilmington Boys and Girls Club, and leadership of Monday night Bible study.

He has also worked tirelessly to champion wildlife conservation across North Carolina with legendary conservationist Eddie Bridges. His vision for the Eddie C. Bridges, Robert P. Holding Black Creek Youth for Christ Wildlife Habitat Conservation Grounds will help future generations value our amazing natural sources.

Like his father and grandfather before him, Robert Holding, III, is an example of the American spirit that makes this country great; the spirit of faith, family, and community; the spirit to be the best we can be and to help others.

God bless you, Robert, and thank you. May God bless your wife, Pam; your children, Bob and Amy; your six grandchildren; your brothers, Frank and George; your sister, Jane; and all those whose lives you continue to touch.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to know Robert and to recognize him today.

WASHINGTON'S SPENDING ADDICTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Washington, in fact, has a spending addiction. We doubled our spending last year to fight the pandemic, protect public health, and get the economy back open and protect jobs. On top of that, this spring, Democrats spent another \$1.9 trillion on extra spending.

Now my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are further fueling this addiction and just can't take their foot off the gas. We are headed downhill with no brakes. They continue to push forward with what amounts to another \$5.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree that is nothing more than a Trojan horse filled with tax hikes for American families and far-left, progressive priorities.

We need to abandon this reckless spending and come together in a bipartisan way and put together a common-sense 2022 budget plan before we burden our children and grandchildren with further debt.

HEATING BILLS JUMP

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, winter is right around the corner and households could see their heating bills jump 54 percent. While some of this can be attributed to our supply chain issues, the administration's spending addiction coupled with their anti-American energy policies aren't helping.

At every turn, the Biden administration has hindered domestic energy production. They halted construction on the Keystone XL pipeline, costing jobs in my home State of Arkansas and throughout the Midwest. They halted new oil and gas leasing on U.S. lands and waters, costing 1 million American jobs in the near term. Now they are pushing a heat-your-home tax in their tax-and-spending spree.

Mr. Speaker, the holidays are around the corner and Americans will unfortunately bear the burden of President Biden's ill-conceived, anti-American energy policies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to end their war on American jobs and our energy independence.

RECOGNIZING 2021 ARKANSAS HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR KRISTY BRASFIELD

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kristy Brasfield, the 2021 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Brasfield earned her bachelor and master's degree in education from Arkansas State University at Jonesboro and is currently working on her doctorate.

Currently, Mrs. Brasfield teaches U.S. history and English IV at the Joe T. Robinson High School in Pulaski County.

To those who know her, this award is no surprise. Her hard work and dedication have been previously rewarded, winning the 2019 Arkansas Council for Social Studies 9 through 12 Teacher of the Year and the 2016 Rotary Educator of the Year.

Mrs. Brasfield, on behalf of all the parents in central Arkansas, I thank you for your hard work, your dedication to your students, and congratulate you on this meaningful award.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF JULIA GAFFNEY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Julia Gaffney of Mayflower, Arkansas. This summer she won the bronze medal in the 400 meter freestyle and the bronze medal in the 100 meter backstroke at the Tokyo Paralympics.

Julia has been swimming competitively since 2015, and quickly has made a name for herself. This year was her first Paralympic appearance, and it was an awe-inspiring achievement.

Julia's path to being a Paralympic medalist was unlike any other. After a setback in this year's games, she said: I had to move on, and I am so happy

that I was able to bounce back and earn a bronze for Team USA.

I admire Julia's courage and determination, which are the characteristics that led her to that Paralympic podium. Julia, you make Mayflower and all of central Arkansas proud.

FULLER & SON HARDWARE MARKS 100 YEARS OF BUSINESS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable accomplishment of Fuller & Son Hardware for marking 100 years of business in central Arkansas.

Fuller & Son Hardware originally started as a feed store operated by Walter "Pop" Fuller at the corner of 28th and Arch Streets in Little Rock in 1921.

Over the past 100 years, Fuller & Son Hardware has weathered the storm of change. They have expanded to include hardware and added five locations in central Arkansas. They are now launching an online shopping option. All that by remaining closed on Sundays. The founder said, "Some money just costs too much."

Congratulations on the centennial for Fuller & Son Hardware.

TURKEY DAY TAX HIKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this Thanksgiving will be the most expensive on record, and Americans have the Biden administration to thank.

Put yourself in the shoes of hard-working families across America. Every morning they wake up and leave for work. The moment their feet touch the ground outside, inflation is already reaching for their wallets. They turn on their cars and head to the gas station where inflation is ready and waiting for them. At the grocery store, inflation is lurking within the aisles.

It is a sobering reality for so many working families, and people are rightfully angry. I share their anger.

Mr. Speaker, consider what these working families are thinking as Thanksgiving approaches. Will they be able to afford President Biden's turkey tax on Thanksgiving dinner? Will they even be able to get themselves to the grocery store in time before the shelves are empty? Will they even be able to get to the grocery store at all because of rising gas prices?

Consider this: Thanksgiving dinner this year is estimated to cost 4 to 5 percent more for American families, and that is assuming they will be able to put food on the table.

Just this morning I did an interview with a local radio station in the Fifth District. The host remarked to me that under the Biden administration we are going to have to get used to empty shelves and rising prices. I take great issue with where the direction of this country is headed under this administration.

Americans have been told to "lower their expectations" and to get used to

doing with less. No, we won't. This is America, and we do not settle for less. We are better than meeting meager expectations, lowering the bar, and expecting less. That is just not who we are as a country, and it certainly is not who we are as a people.

Let's not forget that this administration touted an alleged savings of 16 cents for family barbecues over the Independence Day weekend earlier this year. Nobody took that claim seriously then, and it certainly does not hold up now.

From President Biden's turkey tax to rising gas prices, empty store shelves to rising costs of heating homes during the winter, everyone is feeling the squeeze of inflation. This is not a high-class problem by any stretch of the imagination.

Since President Biden took office, we have watched every month as inflation has ravaged the country. What is this administration thinking? Is it so blind to the fact that families and hard-working Americans are struggling to make ends meet?

Mr. Speaker, the holiday season is on the horizon and Americans are more concerned than ever. With Thanksgiving dinner and everyday commodities becoming out of reach now, Christmas dinner will cost Americans an arm and a leg. This is downright shameful.

DECONGEST AMERICA'S PORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a solution to decongest America's ports, revive America's supply chain, and get Americans back to work.

In the past few months, we have learned the hard way that congested ports create a real interstate commerce and supply chain problem. Families are waiting 6 months for working refrigerators, farmers are waiting 2 months or more for a simple part to fix their equipment, and manufacturing companies are waiting 5 to 6 times longer for electronic components.

Well, people are tired of watching their paid-for, necessary goods sit on our ships off our coasts. The Biden administration is not doing anything about it.

Today, I introduced the Truckers Responding at National Shipping Ports Overcoming Retail Turmoil Act, requiring the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for motor carriers and motor private carriers to relieve congested ports during a national state of emergency or when ports are congested at 50 percent or more.

My bill would empower the Secretary of Transportation to issue Federal grants from unused relief dollars to truckers or distributors to transport goods from a port of entry to a destination point.